

IDAHO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2009 Boise, Idaho

Call to Order and Introductions

Con Paulos, chair, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Chair Paulos announced that the agenda was brief but important as the council considers its role in two national discretionary grants and considers proposals for locally developed high growth grants from the ARRA Governor's 15% funds.

Cheryl Brush called the roll and announced that council members joining the meeting on the phone were Con Paulos, B.J. Swanson, Betty Kerr, John Currin and Jan Nielsen and members attending in person were Jim Schmidt and Dave Whaley. Staff members attending were John McAllister, Jay Engstrom, Dwight Johnson, Leandra Burns, Cheryl Brush, Melinda Adams (on the phone) and Pat Nelson.

Federal Solicitation for Grant Applications for State Energy Sector Partnership and Training Grants (Transmittal #1)

Jay Engstrom provided a brief background of the USDOL's major initiative for creating green jobs. As part of this initiative, a grant opportunity of \$150 million can be applied for by state work force agencies or work force councils. Grants submission must specify training, define success, and show how people will move into green job careers.

One of the grant requirements was to develop a steering committee to help guide the strategic planning process and also direct the work through the life of the grant which is for a thirty-six month period. The steering committee consists of Richard Holman, INL, Ann Stevens, Professional Technical Education, Bill Colbur, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, Dave Whaley, AFL-CIO, Kent Tingey, ISU, Mike Reynoldson, Micron, Paul Kjellander, Governor's Office on Energy Resources and Roger Madsen, Idaho Department of Labor.

The purpose of Transmittal #1 is to introduce the initiative, outline the grant process and obtain approval to proceed with the grant application. The grant application must be submitted by October 20, 2009.

General guidelines include training for green job opportunities in construction, in automotive maintenance and repair, and also in alternative energy.

B.J. Swanson moved and Betty Kerr seconded the adoption of Transmittal #1. Cheryl Brush took the roll call vote which showed unanimous approval.

Discretionary Grant Opportunity for Health Care Training (Transmittal #2)

Cheryl stated that this proposal provides an opportunity from the USDOL through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds for training and placement services in the healthcare or other high-growth industries. It would provide funding for \$2 to \$5 million to expand capacity for training the unemployed, dislocated workers and groups with barriers to employment.

In considering the current data, it was decided to submit a proposal around healthcare and the nursing career ladder for Idaho's southwest region. This region was chosen because of the gap between supply and demand and between training opportunities available and demand for training opportunities. Another consideration was the economic development focus on expanding medical services in the region and the partnerships between Idaho State University, Boise State University, the College of Western Idaho and the programs at the Renaissance School in the Meridian School District. Other partnerships have developed between the Board of Education, the Division of Professional-Technical Education, the U.S. Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, St. Luke's Hospital, the Idaho Health Care Association representing long-term care, the Idaho Alliance of Leaders in Nursing and it is anticipated that partnerships will expand to other worker and business representatives.

The proposal would improve access to a streamlined career pathway that allows entry and movement across and up the career ladder without duplication. Specific projects under the grant would be to:

1. Revise the nursing assistant curriculum to contain at least one general education course and include increased simulation time.
2. Expand nursing assistant enrollment and offer scholarships to admit 30 refugees and 30 more students from high-need populations.
3. Add English as a Second Language classes and review videos to the nursing assistant curriculum to foster the success of refugees and other non-native speakers.
4. Increase graduation rates in the LPN program by providing 40 scholarships.
5. Collaborate with long-term care to improve retention of certified nursing assistants through an apprentice program and to provide CNAs opportunities to become LPNs or ARNs.
6. Develop curriculum for LPN graduates to transition into the AS nursing program.
7. Provide scholarships for 125 associate degree-prepared registered nurses to enter a baccalaureate degree nursing program.
8. Increase graduation rates in the Bachelor of Science nursing program at Boise State by providing scholarships to 75 students with high financial need.
9. Provide scholarships for 30 students who have baccalaureate degrees in another discipline to enter a fast-track baccalaureate program in nursing through Idaho State University.
10. Provide funding to increase capacity in the fast track program.
11. Provide funding to increase simulation education for all schools in the grant impact area.
12. Provide, from non-grant funds, support for RN retention, scholarships for master's and doctorate programs and strengthen programs of study in elementary and secondary schools.

Budgets are still under development, but it is anticipated that the request will be up to the authorized amount. Participation is expected from over one thousand individuals who would benefit from this grant. The Idaho Department of Labor will take the lead on this proposal but are requesting the participation from the council as a partner.

John Currin moved and Jim Schmidt seconded the adoption of Transmittal #2. Cheryl Brush took the roll call vote which showed unanimous approval

Use of Governor's 15% Discretionary Funds (Transmittal #3)

Leandra Burns reminded the committee that at the last council meeting set-aside funds of \$50,000 were approved for each region to develop projects in concert with industry and

education that offer training opportunities in alternative energy, health care, advanced manufacturing and other high-growth occupations offering good wages.

In northern Idaho (Region 1) the long-term health providers have a critical need for licensed practical nurses, particularly in rural communities. The set-aside will finance a contract with North Idaho College for an online Licensed Practical Nurses Program for 10 currently employed certified nurse assistants living in rural communities. This will provide greater access to training, advanced career opportunities for new and existing workers and will be the beginning of a solution to the rural nursing shortage. The Department of Labor will use local Workforce Investment Act training resources to pay for the training.

In north central Idaho (Region 2) focus will also be on health care and will provide rural citizens with entry level employment opportunities in physician's offices, acute- and long-term care facilities, laboratories and outpatient clinics. Also to broaden access to training in skilled trades for those living long distances from Lewis-Clark State College, the school will develop online courses for a plumbing/electrical/HVAC apprenticeship program.

In southwestern Idaho (Region 3) will also target health care and is currently working with St. Luke's Regional Medical Center to upgrade skills so existing entry level employees can qualify for higher-level jobs. St. Luke's will match the financial commitment

The other possibility involves working with local high schools and the College of Western Idaho to develop a CNA-LPN bridge program for students participating in Meridian High School's CNA program. WIA youth requirements include low income and at risk students and Meridian School District did not have enough students that would qualify. However a new opportunity may develop if the focus changes to alternative students.

In south central Idaho (Region 4) the focus will be on the dairy and cheese processing industry. The cheese industry in particular has expressed difficulty with recruiting and retaining quality workers. The set-aside will be used in partnership with TechHelp to develop training sessions in general food technology and whey processing for existing and new workers. The industry will provide a match for the development and delivery of training. The Department of Labor will use local Workforce Investment Act training resources to pay for the training.

Lastly, Leandra reported that in eastern and southeastern Idaho (Region 5 and 6) will focus on education for at-risk youth on the growing opportunities of the career pathways in the energy and health care fields and will host career exploration and information events. The Idaho Department of Labor will use the \$50,000 awarded by the council to support training expenses for at-risk youth in health care or alternative energy.

Dave Whaley moved and Betty Kerr seconded the adoption of Transmittal #3. Cheryl Brush took the roll call vote which showed unanimous approval

New Business

Con announced that the next council meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2009 in Boise and that the Workforce Development Council spring meeting will possibly be held in connection with the Rural Summit in Coeur d'Alene the first week in May.

It was moved by Jim Schmidt, seconded by John Currin to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

Attendance

Committee Members:

John Currin
Betty Kerr
Jan Nielsen
Con Paulos
Jim Schmidt
B.J. Swanson
Dave Whaley

Guests:

Melinda Adams
Cheryl Brush
Leandra Burns
Jay Engstrom
Dwight Johnson
John McAllister
Pat Nelson